

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 05681 280627Z

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 EB-03 NSC-05 PM-03

SP-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 L-01 IO-03 DODE-00

/045 W

-----020427 280633Z /20

R 272210Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9270

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 5681

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE AND THAILAND

REF: SINGAPORE 5669

1. MUCH OF MY CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM ON DECEMBER 24 (REFTEL) FOCUSSED ON THAILAND, WHICH RAJA HAD RECENTLY VISITED AS PART OF PM LEE KUAN YEW'S OFFICIAL PARTY. RAJA WAS VERY HOPEFUL ABOUT THE OUTLOOK IN THAILAND UNDER THE NEW KRIANGSAK GOVERNMENT, BUT IN TYPICAL SINGAPORE STYLE RETAINED RESERVATIONS.

2. RAJA'S WORRIES WERE TWO-FOLD: FIRST, IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT TOO MANY ELDERLY POLITICAL FIGURES WERE INCLUDED IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT, AND HE FELT THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO INVOLVE YOUNGER, MORE ACTIVE PERSONALITIES; SECOND, WHILE HE BELIEVED THAT KRIANGSAK HAD BEEN SAYING ALL THE RIGHT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 05681 280627Z

THINGS ABOUT SOCIAL PROGRESS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT ETC., HE CONSIDERED THAT IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN WHETHER TRADITIONAL BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA COULD BE OVERCOME TO A LEVEL SUFFICIENT TO BRING ABOUT SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.

3. FOR SINGAPORE'S PART, RAJA SAID, THE GOS WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS

AWAY FROM BANGKOK. HE MENTIONED HELPING OUT IN PROJECTS INTENDED TO GROW VEGETABLES AND RAISE CATTLE AND PIGS FOR EXPORT TO SINGAPORE, WHERE A READY MARKET EXISTED. (IN FACT, HE SAID, SINGAPORE WOULD EVEN BE WILLING TO SCALE DOWN ITS OWN PIG PRODUCTION IN FAVOR OF IMPORTS FROM THAILAND.) SUCH PROJECTS WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF INJECTING LARGE AMOUNTS OF CAPITAL INTO RURAL AREAS IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, THUS EASING POPULAR DISCONTENT.

4. RAJA STATED THAT LEE KUAN YEW AND KRIANGSAK HAD REACHED AGREEMENT IN GENERAL TERMS ON THE NEED TO MAKE ASEAN FUNCTION MORE EFFECTIVELY IN ECONOMIC MATTERS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, IT WAS ACCEPTED THAT NO NEW DEPARTURES COULD BE UNDERTAKEN UNTIL AFTER THE INDONESIAN ELECTIONS IN MARCH DUE TO INDONESIA'S ALMOST TOTAL PRE-OCCUPATION WITH THIS EVENT. RAJA ALSO NOTED THAT THE AGREEMENT SINGAPORE HAD REACHED WITH THE THANIAN GOVERNMENT ON AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD TARIFF REDUCTION OF 10 PERCENT WAS NOW IN THE DOLDRUMS. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH KRIANGSAK, WHO HAD TAKEN THE POSITION THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE ON SUCH A BROAD SCALE UNTIL ALL FIVE ASEAN PARTNERS ARE IN ACCORD. GIVEN MALAYSIA'S AND INDONESIA'S RESERVATIONS, THAT SETTLES THAT.

5. RAJA WAS UNRESERVEDLY LAUDATORY REGARDING KRIANGSAK'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 05681 280627Z

APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY ON THE SCORE OF RELATIONS WITH THE SRV, SAYING THAT IT WAS REALISTIC AND FLEXIBLE. HE ONLY HOPED THAT THE THAI WOULD NOT GO OVERBOARD AND EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM HANOI IN TERMS OF LASTING GOOD BEHAVIOR.
HOLDRIDGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP05681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770482-1073
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771215/aaaaamjy.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a95a0efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 SINGAPORE 5669
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 126934
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINGAPORE AND THAILAND
TAGS: PINT, ECON, VM, SN, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a95a0efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009